

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SCS-03 EB-11 JUSE-00 SCA-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /112 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 972

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR CASC CGEN ETRN

SUBJ: MFA COMPLAINS ABOUT BEHAVIOUR OF AMERICAN SEAMEN

REF: MOSCOW 9145

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY COMPLAINED ABOUT BEHAVIOUR AMERICAN SEAMEN IN SOVIET PORTS IN "ORAL STATEMENT" EAD TO CONSOFF AUGUST 8. MFA OFFICIAL CITED THREE SPECIFIC INCIDENTS AND REQUESTED USG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT FUTURE INADMISSIBLE CONDUCT BY ITS SEAMEN. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIEF CONSULAR SECTION WAS CALLED TO MFA BY CHIEF WEST EUROPEAN/AMERICAN DIVISION OF CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION (VASILYEV) AUGUST 8 AND WAS READ FOLLOWING "ORAL STATEMENT."

3. QUOTE: RECENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL-ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND USA THERE HAVE BEEN MORE FREQUENT CALLS BY AMERICAN COMMERCIAL SHIPS IN SOVIET PORTS. CAPTAINS OF AMERICAN SHIPS CALLING IN SOVIET PORTS, THEIR ASSISTANTS AND MEMBERS OF COMMAND HAVE FULLY SHOWN READINESS TO COOPERATE WITH PORT AUTHORITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS.

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4. AT SAME TIME, THERE HAVE BEEN COMMITTED ON PART OF AMERICAN SEAMEN CASES OF CRUDE VIOLATION OF SOVIET LAWS AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING/SOJOURN IN OUR PORTS, EVEN ACTS PUNISHABLE ACCORDING TO SOVIET LAWS IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.

5. FOR EXAMPLE, ON NIGHT OF APRIL 5 THIS YEAR SEAMEN FROM AMERICAN SHIP MANHATTEN, IN A STATE OF DRUNKENNESS, BURST INTO PREMISES OF ODESSA INFLOT BY BREAKING THE DOOR, AND DAMAGED FURNITURE, COMMITTED HOOLIGAN ACTS AND INSULTED SOVIET EMPLOYEES.

6. OR MAY 1 THIS YEAR AMERICAN SEAMAN FROM SHIP OVERSEAS ALEUTIAN CAUSED A DRUNKEN BRAWL (DEBOSH) IN PREMISES OF ODESSA INFLOT, BROKE GLASS, AND SOILED (PEREPACHKALI) FURNITURE.

7. ON JUNE 4 THIS YEAR, FROM ABOARD AMERICAN SHIP TRANS-PANAMA IN PORT ILOCHOVSK WERE THROWN FEKI (FEKALII) ONTO A SOVIET LIGHTER VOLGOBALT, AS CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH 400 TONS OF WHEAT WAS POILED. PORT AUTHORITIES HAVE FINED TRANS-PANAMA CAPTAIN, RESERVING FOR THEMSELVES RIGHT TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR THE INFLICTED DAMAGE.

8. OF COURSE, SUCH KIND OF CASES OF VIOLATION OF LAWS AND RULES CONCERNING SOJOURN IN SOVIET PORTS ARE INADMISSIBLE (NEDOPUSTIMIMI). THEY INFLICT DAMAGE TO THE CAUSE OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. THE MINISTRY HOPES THAT MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN ON THE AMERICAN SIDE SO THAT REPETITIONS OF SIMILAR CASES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN FUTURE. END QUOTE.

9. AFTER READING STATEMENT MATTER-OF-FACTLY, VASILYEV HANDED OVER COPY (BEING POUCHED EUR/SOV) WITH REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES BE INFORMED. AFTER INDICATING THAT SOVIET STATEMENT WOULD BE FORWARDED, CONSOFF NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MANAGER ODESSA INFLOT LANKOV RECENTLY AS AUGUST 2, AND THAT WE WERE THEN ASSURED THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS WITH AMERICAN SEAMEN (REFTEL). CONSOFF ALSO ASKED WHETHER SOME AMERICAN SEAMEN WERE NOW BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETAINED ON SHIPBOARD IN ODESSA FOR MOSCONDUCT AS HAD BEEN REPORTED. VASILYEV SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION OF ANY CURRENT PROBLEMS IN ODESSA AND COULD NOT EXPLAIN LANKOV'S ASSURANCES A WEEK EARLIER. VASILYEV (AND MATROYEV WHO SAT IN) HAD NO FURTHER INFO ABOUT INCIDENTS ALLEGED OR REGISTRATION OF SHIPS INVOLVED IN SOVIET STATEMENT.

10. COMMENT: UNDOUBTEDLY SOVIETS ARE AWARE USG CAN DO LITTLE

TO PREVENT INSTANCES OF MISCONDUCT ALLEGED. IT IS NOT
EVEN CLEAR FROM STATEMENT THAT WHEAT INCIDENT WAS
DELIBERATE. SOVIET AOTHOITIES PROBABLY WISH TO ALERT
EMBASSY AND USG HOWEVER THAT SOVIET PATIENCE IS NOT
UNLIMITED AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS ARE ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.
SOVIETS MAY ALSO BE PREPARING JUSTIFICATION
FOR TUTURE DELAYS IN PERMITTING AMERICAN SEAMEN ON SHORE,
DELAYS WHICH MAY BE AS MUCH RESULT SOVIET PORT INADEQUACIES
(REFTEL) AS BEHAVIOR AMERICAN SEAMEN. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY
FEELS APPROPRIATE USG CAGENCY SHOULD DISCUSS SEAMEN'S
BEHAVIOR WITH SEAMEN ORGAINZATIONS AS WELL AS COMPANIES.
EXEMPT DUBS

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